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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jeffrey GRELLA et al.

Confirmation No.: 7090

Patent No.: 6,978,558 B2

Application No.: 10/701,697

Patent Date: December 27, 2005

Filing Date: November 4, 2003

For: SNOWBOARD BOOT STRAP ANCHOR

Attorney Docket No.: 87728-3700

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.323

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate
JAN 09 2006
of Correction

Sir:

Patentees hereby respectfully request the issuance of a Certificate of Correction in connection with the above-identified patent. The correction is listed on the attached Form PTO-1050. The correction requested is as follows:

At column 6, line 12 (claim 8, line 4), after "an ankle strap arrangement including" delete "and" and insert -- an --.

The requested change is to correct an error of a clerical or typographical nature and does not involve a change that would constitute new matter or require reexamination.

A fee of \$100 is believed to be due for this request. Please charge the required fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814. Please issue a Certificate of Correction in due course.

01/06/2006 HAL111 00000013 501814 6978558
01 FC:1811 100.00 DA

Respectfully submitted,

Date

1/4/06

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JAN 10 2006

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO.: 6,978,558 B2
DATED: December 27, 2005
INVENTORS: Grella et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 6:

Line 12, after "an ankle strap arrangement including" delete "and" and insert -- an --.

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the straps can slide more freely relative to each other. For example, the instep pad 46 can easily slide beneath the medial strap 44 as the ratchet mechanism 48 is used to tighten the straps. This helps to minimize friction between the straps and the sports boot upper that could create unwanted and uncomfortable pressure points. Furthermore, such a snowboard boot strap mounting system permits the easy replacement of any strap, such as medial strap 44, if it becomes worn or damaged.

An embodiment of the invention has been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, more than three mounting holes could be utilized to offer more mounting choices to a rider, and the strap anchor could be attached to other portions or areas of an upper of a snowboard boot. Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A snowboard boot strap mounting system comprising:
 - an ankle strap arrangement including an instep pad;
 - a first strap anchor operatively associated with the ankle strap arrangement, and having a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of an ankle strap and the instep pad to provide sufficient space for the instep pad to slide beneath the ankle strap, and wherein the strap anchor raised portion comprises at least three separate mounting locations, the strap anchor including a base portion for attachment to a snowboard boot upper and the ankle strap arrangement having a first distal end for attachment to the first strap anchor; and
 - a fastener device for connecting the first distal end of the ankle strap arrangement to the first strap anchor by mating with a selected mounting location.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first strap anchor is attached to the medial side of the snowboard boot upper and a second distal end of the strap arrangement is connected to the lateral side of the snowboard boot upper.
3. The system of claim 1 further comprising a second strap anchor having a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of the ankle strap and the instep pad, wherein the raised portion comprises at least three separate mounting locations, and a base portion for attachment to the snowboard boot upper.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the second strap anchor is attached to the lateral side of the snowboard boot upper and a second distal end of the strap arrangement is configured for attachment to a selected mounting location of the second strap anchor.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein at least one mounting location includes a sleeve for receiving a fastener device.

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6. The system of claim 1 wherein at least one mounting location includes a means for receiving a tool-less fastener device.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the first strap anchor raised portion has a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of at least two straps of the ankle strap arrangement.

8. A snowboard boot comprising:

an outsole;

an upper connected to the outsole;

an ankle strap arrangement including and instep pad arranged to overlie the upper and having first and second distal ends attached to first and second attachment locations, the ankle strap arrangement having an adjustable length; and

at least one strap anchor that includes a raised portion with a height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of an ankle strap and the instep pad to provide sufficient space for the instep pad to slide beneath the ankle strap and comprising at least three separate mounting locations, and a thin base portion, the strap anchor affixed to the boot upper in at least one of the first and second attachment locations;

wherein at least one of the distal ends of the ankle strap is removably mounted to a selected mounting location of the strap anchor.

9. The snowboard boot of claim 8 further comprising a fastener device for connecting the first distal end of the ankle strap arrangement to the strap anchor by mating with a selected mounting location.

10. The snowboard boot of claim 8 further comprising a second strap anchor having a raised portion with height equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of the ankle strap and instep pad and comprising at least three separate mounting locations, and a base portion attached to the other of the first and second attachment locations.

11. The snowboard boot of claim 8 wherein at least one mounting location includes a sleeve for receiving a fastener device.

12. The snowboard boot of claim 8 wherein at least one mounting location includes a means for receiving a tool-less fastener device.

13. The snowboard boot of claim 8 wherein the strap anchor raised portion has a height that is equal to at least seventy-five percent of the combined thickness of at least two straps of the ankle strap arrangement.

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